



STATE OF MAINE  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
1 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0001

Paul R. LePage  
GOVERNOR

11 July 2012

The Honorable Chellie Pingree  
1318 Longworth Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Pingree:

I was disappointed to see your recent letter to Secretary Sebelius. It appears that you have become part of the jet-setting Washington culture that keeps people dependent on government handouts. Your efforts should instead be focused on the Maine people, helping my administration create the well-paying careers that will let Mainers earn their own way and create prosperity for themselves.

Your letter was careless in its facts, neglecting to tell the Secretary that the Maine Legislature adopted many of the cuts you claim are "drastic." Instead, you insinuate that these welfare reforms are being done unilaterally, not by my administration or with Mainers' elected representatives, but by me personally. If you would like to attack me personally, fine, but it is irresponsible and a disservice to Maine people to try and hide the facts from a Secretary.

Further, you describe some of Maine's welfare reforms as "drastic." In reality, the reforms in question remove only 21,000 individuals from government-paid health care. They are all above the federal poverty level or they are 19-to-20 year olds. Removing them from the welfare rolls is far from "drastic," as Maine's Medicaid population will remain significantly above the national average. It is simply a necessary correction after years of overpromising benefits without enabling the private sector to create jobs and generate the taxes needed to pay for the welfare state. We either fix it now or it fails for everyone.

While you might not like the welfare reforms made by the Maine Legislature, it is astounding that you would actively advocate for the Federal Government to overrule Maine's decisions. It has been said since this country's earliest days that "the government closest to the people is the one that governs best." Your title says that you are a Representative from Maine, but apparently you prefer to represent the power of bureaucrats in Washington, D.C.

Instead, you sing from the same old songbook: raise taxes, raise the debt ceiling, and use the power of the Federal Government to order around Americans and the states. It is time to stop. Congress cannot afford the promises it has made to everyone. Federal regulations are bankrupting states. It is time to remove the shackles and let those of us in



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Augusta and state capitals across the country - those of us closest to the people - work to bring our citizens to prosperity again.

I will be sending Secretary Sebelius a letter shortly, encouraging her to apply the law fairly, without political interference, when Maine submits the required State Plan Amendment. We will certainly copy you on that letter, despite the fact it is a courtesy you have not extended to us. I challenge you to rethink your position and send a new letter to the Secretary, encouraging her to work with the State you claim to represent. It is simply the right thing to do.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul R. LePage", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Paul R. LePage  
Governor

cc: The Honorable Olympia Snowe  
The Honorable Susan Collins  
The Honorable Michael Michaud  
The Honorable Kevin Raye  
The Honorable Robert Nutting  
Commissioner Mary Mayhew